

Contact: Scott R. Tess
Phone: 217-384-2381
Email: srtess@urbanaillinois.us

For Immediate Release



Solar Urbana Champaign is happy to bring back in-person learning opportunities for 2022! Virtual presentations will also be available to maximize the audience the program can reach. Full presentation schedule is coming soon!

With Rising Electricity Prices, Group Buying Solar Makes More Sense Than Ever

Solar Urbana-Champaign, a Bulk Purchase Program Helps New Solar Buyers Learn and Save Together

Urbana, IL— As summer heatwaves sweep across the Midwest and air conditioning units hum throughout neighborhoods, consumers are likely watching their electric bills more closely this year. With economy-wide inflation having a big impact on energy prices, property owners may be considering ways to save money and protect themselves from price hikes. That's why the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and the City of Urbana are especially excited to announce the return of Solar Urbana-Champaign, the non-profit education and bulk purchasing program that makes going solar faster, easier, and cheaper.

Returning for its seventh year, this program is open to property owners in **Champaign, Piatt and Vermilion Counties**, offering the opportunity to learn about the latest trends in solar energy and to access more affordable pricing on solar installations. Combining community engagement with the power

of bulk purchasing, the program's goal is to help property owners discover the economic potential of a solar electric system for their property.

"The City of Urbana is excited to once again bring Solar Urbana Champaign to our residents" says Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer for the City of Urbana. "The program clearly and simply outlines the science and economics of going solar, which is so important in the saturated and sometimes confusing solar marketplace."

Administered by the non-profit Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) and supported by local municipalities and business partners, the program focuses first on providing high quality solar education for interested consumers, using informational outreach events dubbed "Solar Power Hours" to bring community members together to learn about solar and its potential on their property.

For property owners who are interested in moving forward with going solar, Solar Urbana Champaign pairs education with a competitive contractor bidding process and group purchasing program to maximize cost savings, and streamline the solar process for participants. This year, the program Advisory Committee selected GRNE Solar (www.GRNEsolar.com) to serve the program.

The MREA and its partners see the program as a way to build resilient communities that are powered by locally-produced solar electricity, and help participants save on their monthly utility bills. The program sets benchmarks along the way, and once those benchmarks are met, more rebates are triggered for all program participants, making the cost per system even more affordable.

"With inflation on the rise and energy costs going up, now is a great time to consider going solar," said Peter Murphy, Associate Director of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. "The economic benefit of solar mirrors the economic benefit of owning one's home: without solar, you're essentially renting your electricity. With solar, you own the means of producing your electricity and can lock your energy costs into a fixed monthly repayment, protecting you from electricity price hikes."

Throughout the upcoming months, Solar Urbana Champaign will be offering Solar Power Hour presentations across the program area, in both in-person and virtual formats. These events are free and open to the public, and attendees are eligible for a free, no-obligation site assessment from GRNE Solar.

To learn more about Solar Urbana-Champaign, sign up for updates, or keep up to date with the Solar Power Hour schedule, please visit: www.solarurbanachampaign.com.

###

The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first [Energy Fair](#) in 1990. MREA's mission is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715-592-6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org.

Additional resources including sample promotions, photos and program logos available for download at: [Solar Urbana-Champaign Media Kit](#)